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Pakistan seeks radar to deter Soviet raids

By Edward Neilan
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Pakistan wants to obtain sophisticated early warning radar and surveillance equipment from the United States to look deep into Afghanistan so that "we would have a margin of time to meet air attacks across our border," Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said yesterday.

The "sneak raids" are not easy to deal with, Mr. Yaqub Khan said, adding that his country was particularly pleased to be receiving on a "rush" basis Sidewinder and Stinger missiles from the United States to strengthen its defenses against increasing Soviet and Afghanistan air incursions.

The 100 Sidewinders or AIM9L air-to-air missiles, to be delivered on an expedited basis, are part of a \$50 million package of 500 Sidewinders and other air defense equipment which the administration last March 5 announced it would send to Pakistan.

The unspecified number of shoulder-fired, surface-to-air Stinger missiles worth \$8.5 million are in addition to the March package.

Last fall Pakistan asked the United States about purchasing Grumman Hawkeye E2C aircraft for early warning border surveillance. The United States sent a team to Pakistan to evaluate the request and found the E2C, mostly used for sea surveillance, unsuitable for duty in mountainous terrain, and both sides agreed other early warning equipment was necessary.

Mr. Yaqub Khan, speaking to reporters at a breakfast, declined to respond to speculation that Pakistan might be offering this week to trade intelligence access to two Mi-24 Hind helicopter gunships, flown last week to Pakistan by Afghan pilots, for the early warning equipment.

The foreign minister is to meet Secretary of State George P. Shultz Saturday, but would not confirm which subjects were on the agenda.

On the recently completed fourth

round of proximity talks held in Geneva with the Soviet-backed Afghan regime, Mr. Yaqub Khan said some progress was made on general principles for a solution that would include these major points:

- Non-interference and non-intervention by outside powers in Afghanistan.

- International guarantees on the final agreement by the United States and Soviet Union.

- Arrangement for the return of refugees, treatment of casualties and attendant logistics.

- Finally, withdrawal of Soviet forces.

The foreign minister said Pakistan would be agreeable to a pull-back of 75 percent of the more than 100,000 Soviet troops as constituting withdrawal. He said he believed the anti-communist guerrillas would also accept such an arrangement.

Privately, Mr. Yaqub Khan does not put much store in the chances for successful implementation of such an agreement. "But even if there is only a 5 percent chance," said a high-ranking Pakistani official, "we should give it our best diplomatic shot."

Pakistan believes that willingness to pursue negotiations will act "as a

deterrent against further Soviet escalation" in the form of increasingly frequent cross-border air strikes.

Western estimates are that the Afghan army has shrunk from 100,000 to about 30,000 through casualties and defections. This would make it unlikely that Soviet forces could soon leave the country, many observers believe.

"We should withhold judgment, however skeptical we may feel, on Soviet intentions and put to the test Soviet sincerity. They have said their forces are there temporarily and will withdraw," Mr. Yaqub Khan said. "No one is going to push the Soviet army out of Afghanistan by force."

"The key to withdrawal lies in Moscow so we are seeking direct talks there," he said.

The foreign minister was asked about the recent visit here of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, including his warnings to the United States on the "danger" of Pakistan's nuclear program.

"Let me reiterate, we shall not make nuclear weapons and we shall not do anything to damage U.S.-Pakistan relations," Mr. Yaqub Khan said.

Meanwhile, in Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday strongly protested to "Afghan authorities" over the arrest of two staff members of its embassy in the Afghan capital of Kabul Tuesday and demanded their immediate release.

A statement by the foreign office said the arrests violated the Vienna convention on diplomatic practices and privileges.

Pakistan does not recognize the government of President Babrak Karmal in Afghanistan, installed after the Soviet invasion of the country in December 1979, but maintains its embassy in Kabul with a skeleton staff.

It is the first time that Afghan authorities have arrested Pakistan Embassy staff members.

Observers in Islamabad think the latest arrests might be part of pres-

sure tactics by the Kabul regime to secure the return of the seven Afghan air force officers who piloted the two Mi-24 helicopter gunships to Pakistan last Saturday.

The Mi-24 is considered the Soviet Union's most effective weapon against the Afghan resistance and the defectors provided Western intelligence services the first opportunity to inspect the formidable weapon.